

U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/883,459
Amendment dated March 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 10, 2005

PATENT
Attorney Docket 713-10-PA

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed January 10, 2005.
Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-97 were filed. Claims 1-62, 65-71, and 77-97 were allowed. Claims 72-76 were withdrawn from consideration pursuant to a restriction/election requirement, and have been canceled without prejudice to applicant's right to re-file them in a divisional application.

Claims 63 and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§112 and 101 because the claims recite a method in their preamble, and the claims themselves recite method steps, while the claims depend from claim 57 which is an apparatus claim. Accordingly, claim 63 has been amended to depend from claim 50, which is a method claim. Claim 64, which depends from claim 63, now likewise depends from a base claim directed to a method. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 63 and 64, as amended, are in accord with Sections 101 and 112 of the Statute and define patentable subject matter.

Claims 57, 67, and 86 were objected to because of informalities relating to providing a proper antecedent basis for certain limitations. These claims have been amended to overcome the objections.

In view of the above amendments, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-71 and 77-97, as amended, are allowable. Passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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